

The spatial analysis in Figures 23 through 28 revealed some interesting patterns. First, for question 1 there were only a few “bad” or “very bad” responses, but those few provided tended to shift further from the track in the after period. Second, there were fewer residents reporting “loud” horn sounds away from the tracks in the after period. Third, and most important, the responses to questions 3 and 4 showed that the residents living closest to the crossing tended to both notice and prefer the new wayside horn.

We recorded 23 comments during the before period. Ten of those responses indicated that the current train horn is not a problem. Other interesting comments included:

1. Gates should be constructed in such a manner that makes it impossible for vehicle to go around the gates.
2. I’m thankful for the horn. It could be louder.
3. When driving with the music on, sometimes I can’t hear the horn. If they didn’t have the things that blocked the tracks when the train is coming, I probably would not realize a train was coming.
4. All I have ever heard are the bells--no horn.
5. I feel the crossing is very safe.
6. The train is so overloaded that the engines sprayed sparks of fire out of the stacks and set two separate fires. The fire dept. came and set the fires out.
7. Thank you for requesting my input. If the train going right through the middle of downtown doesn’t have to blow its horn neither should the one going behind my house.
8. I am concerned about the safety of motorists because the crossing rail does not always come down when a train is coming (especially at the Englewood location)

The comments we received in the after period survey included several relevant to the wayside horn:

1. Because the sound from the horn system the sound is hardly noticeable. My office is located 1/2 block 90 degrees from horn direction.
2. The new sound is a little bell. The train does not bother us. We have lived here since 1983 & like the added space the easement adds to our lot.
3. I think you’re doing a great job. I love the choo choo train and I’m 82.
4. Leave it alone. I like the train. No change needed.
5. With lights and gates there is no need for a horn. If people don’t stop for the lights and gates they will not stop for the horn.
6. Like watching the train come through.
7. I never hear it, but if I did I would appreciate the safety affects.
8. A flashing light is always better – or a gate that lowers.
9. I’ve lived here so many years that the horn really doesn’t bother me.
10. The horn is good. I still like the chopping of the rails fence.
11. Glad to have it. Want engineer to blow horn in plenty of time before crossing in area where marked with “W” not wait until almost here.
12. Drivers are properly notified of a train coming. Very good engineers coming from an X-Engineer.
13. I don’t notice the horn at Winstead but do at crossing west of Winstead.